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Thomas Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns,

I am writing to inform you of my support of the DOE Preferred Alternative but with the Save the Reach Coalition's amendments.

I feel that the McGee Ranch and the Riverland area are essential to the complete refuge system that the Wahluke Slope and ALE will create. Making the Hanford Reach a Wild and Scenic River must include the islands that exist within its borders. This action should be taken now, not delayed until final decisions are made concerning the Hanford clean-up.

Also, I feel it is extremely important to eliminate all grazing on these lands. I have personally walked over these areas and know first hand that the elk from ALE use it. I am sure it is not necessary for me to point out to you the damage that livestock would do to this habitat.

Mining should also be ban with the exception of what is needed for the final clean-up of Hanford. I would hate to see the beautiful land of the McGee Ranch mined for such a purpose, but if it means what is left would be included in the refuge area, so be it.

Thank you for your help and concern in having these lands set aside for me, my children, and the grandkids to come.

Sincerely,



Murrel V. Dawson